

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3234

To improve employment, training, and placement services furnished to veterans, especially those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 20, 2010

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To improve employment, training, and placement services furnished to veterans, especially those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Employment
5 Assistance Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) In 2008, the unemployment rate of veterans
2 between the ages of 18 and 24 was 14.1 percent.

3 (2) In 2009, the unemployment rate of male
4 veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 was 21.6
5 percent and the unemployment rate of female vet-
6 erans in the same age group was 19.2 percent.

7 (3) The unemployment rate of veterans in all
8 age groups is expected to increase as a result of the
9 economic downturn that began in 2008.

10 (4) In 2004, approximately 22 percent of vet-
11 erans were either purchasing or starting a new busi-
12 ness, or considering doing so.

13 (5) One of the most critical problems identified
14 by veteran small business owners is a lack of knowl-
15 edge about programs of assistance available to small
16 businesses.

17 (6) Members of the Armed Forces learn a wide
18 range of technical skills during their time in the
19 Armed Forces, but often find it difficult to transfer
20 these skills into civilian professions.

21 (7) The Commissioner of Labor Statistics esti-
22 mates that career opportunities in the fields of
23 health care and information technology will expand
24 significantly in the coming decade.

1 **SEC. 3. VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 of the Small Business
3 Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (f), by inserting “subsections
5 (a) through (e) of” before “this section”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(g) VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator, in
9 consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall es-
10 tablish a veterans business center program to pro-
11 vide entrepreneurial training and counseling to vet-
12 erans in accordance with this subsection.

13 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Administrator shall ap-
14 point a Director of the veterans business center pro-
15 gram, who shall—

16 “(A) implement and oversee the veterans
17 business center program; and

18 “(B) report directly to the Associate Ad-
19 ministrator.

20 “(3) DESIGNATION OF VETERANS BUSINESS
21 CENTERS.—The Director shall—

22 “(A) by regulation establish an application,
23 review, and notification process under which the
24 Director may designate entities as veterans
25 business centers for purposes of this section;
26 and

1 “(B) publicize the designation of an entity
 2 as a veterans business center and the award of
 3 a grant to a veterans business center under this
 4 subsection.

5 “(4) FUNDING FOR VETERANS BUSINESS CEN-
 6 TERS.—

7 “(A) INITIAL GRANTS.—The Director may
 8 make a grant to each veterans business center
 9 each year in the amount of \$150,000. The Di-
 10 rector may not make more than 5 grants under
 11 this subparagraph to a veterans business cen-
 12 ter.

13 “(B) GROWTH FUNDING GRANTS.—If a
 14 veterans business center has received 5 initial
 15 grants, the Director may make a grant to the
 16 veterans business center each year in the
 17 amount of \$100,000. The Director may not
 18 make more than 3 grants under this subpara-
 19 graph to a veterans business center.

20 “(5) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Each veterans busi-
 21 ness center receiving an initial grant or a growth
 22 funding grant shall—

23 “(A) meet performance benchmarks (which
 24 shall be established by the Director for the vet-
 25 erans business center and reflect the purposes

1 of this subsection) to be eligible for an initial
2 grant or growth funding grant in a subsequent
3 year; and

4 “(B) submit to the Director an annual re-
5 port on the performance of the veterans busi-
6 ness center, which shall include—

7 “(i) a description of the use of the
8 grant under this subsection and matching
9 funds to carry out the activities of the vet-
10 erans business center; and

11 “(ii) a description of the progress of
12 the veterans business center in meeting the
13 performance benchmarks described in sub-
14 paragraph (A).

15 “(6) CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each vet-
16 erans business center receiving an initial grant or a
17 growth funding grant shall use the funds received
18 under the grant for—

19 “(A) veteran entrepreneurial development;

20 “(B) counseling of veterans who own small
21 business concerns or who are seeking to own a
22 small business concern through one-on-one in-
23 struction and classes, including counseling re-
24 lating to financial literacy;

1 “(C) education about services available
2 through one-stop centers referred to in section
3 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of
4 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c)), including veterans
5 employment assistance and job announcement
6 services;

7 “(D) education about tax provisions relat-
8 ing to first time owners of business concerns,
9 owners of small business concerns, and vet-
10 erans;

11 “(E) information on the availability of
12 mentoring services and referrals, as appro-
13 priate; and

14 “(F) information on government procure-
15 ment assistance available to veterans.

16 “(7) MATCHING FUNDS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A veterans business
18 center receiving an initial grant or a growth
19 funding grant shall provide a contribution, in
20 cash or in-kind, that is not less than 50 percent
21 of the amount of the grant.

22 “(B) SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTION.—Not
23 more than 25 percent of a contribution under
24 subparagraph (A) may be provided from other
25 Federal funds. The contribution may be pro-

1 vided from funds made available by a State,
2 local government, or private person.

3 “(C) WAIVER.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director may,
5 upon request, waive a portion of the
6 matching contribution under this para-
7 graph upon a determination of hardship to
8 the veterans business center.

9 “(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deter-
10 mining whether a veterans business center
11 is experiencing a hardship, the Director
12 shall consider—

13 “(I) whether the veterans busi-
14 ness center is operating at an eco-
15 nomic loss;

16 “(II) whether the veterans busi-
17 ness center would continue to operate
18 without a waiver; and

19 “(III) other factors the Director
20 considers appropriate.

21 “(8) TARGETED AREAS.—The Director shall
22 give priority to applications to be designated a vet-
23 erans business center and for initial grants and
24 growth funding grants under this subsection that

1 will establish a veterans business center in a geo-
2 graphic area, as determined by the Director—

3 “(A) that is not currently served by a vet-
4 erans business center; and

5 “(B) in which—

6 “(i) the number of veterans per capita
7 exceeds the national median of the number
8 of veterans per capita;

9 “(ii) the number of veterans of Oper-
10 ation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Endur-
11 ing Freedom per capita exceeds the na-
12 tional median of the number of veterans of
13 Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation En-
14 during Freedom per capita; or

15 “(iii) the expected number of veterans
16 of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation
17 Enduring Freedom per capita, as deter-
18 mined by the Secretary of Defense, will ex-
19 ceed the national median of the number of
20 veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom or
21 Operation Enduring Freedom per capita.

22 “(9) TRAINING PROGRAM.—The Director shall
23 develop and implement, directly or by contract, an
24 annual training program for the employees of vet-
25 erans business centers to provide education, support,

1 and information on best practices with respect to the
2 establishment and operation of a veterans business
3 center. The Director shall develop the training pro-
4 gram under this paragraph in consultation with vet-
5 erans business centers, the task force, the Employ-
6 ment and Training Administration and the Vet-
7 erans' Employment and Training Service of the De-
8 partment of Labor, and veterans service organiza-
9 tions.

10 “(10) INCLUSION OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN
11 PROGRAM.—The Director shall designate as a vet-
12 erans business center, and may make a initial grant
13 to—

14 “(A) a Veterans Business Outreach Center
15 established by the Administrator under section
16 8(b)(17) on or before the date of enactment of
17 this subsection; and

18 “(B) each person or entity that—

19 “(i) received funds during fiscal year
20 2006 from the National Veterans Business
21 Development Corporation established
22 under section 33; and

23 “(ii) is in operation on the date of en-
24 actment of this subsection.

1 “(11) ANNUAL REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF
2 VETERAN BUSINESS CENTERS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
4 after the date of enactment of this subsection,
5 and every year thereafter, the Administrator
6 shall submit a report on the performance of the
7 veterans business center program to—

8 “(i) the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
9 fairs, the Committee on Appropriations,
10 the Committee on Small Business and En-
11 trepreneurship, and the Committee on
12 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
13 the Senate;

14 “(ii) the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
15 fairs, the Committee on Appropriations,
16 and the Committee on Small Business of
17 the House of Representatives; and

18 “(iii) relevant Federal agencies, in-
19 cluding the Department of Veterans Af-
20 fairs and the Department of Labor.

21 “(B) CONTENTS.—Each report under sub-
22 paragraph (A) shall include, for the 1-year pe-
23 riod ending on the date of the report—

24 “(i) an assessment of the compliance
25 of each veterans business center receiving

1 an initial grant or growth funding grant
2 with the performance benchmarks estab-
3 lished for the veterans business center
4 under paragraph (5)(A);

5 “(ii) the number of veterans assisted
6 by a veterans business center receiving an
7 initial grant or growth funding grant;

8 “(iii) comments, if any, from veterans
9 who sought the assistance of a veterans
10 business center;

11 “(iv) the success rate, as determined
12 by the Administrator, of small business
13 concerns owned and controlled by veterans
14 who sought assistance from a veterans
15 business center; and

16 “(v) any other performance indicators
17 and information the Administrator deter-
18 mines appropriate.

19 “(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director
20 shall disseminate the findings of each report
21 under subparagraph (A) online and to the vet-
22 eran, small business, and workforce develop-
23 ment communities.

1 “(12) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this subsection—

4 “(A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

5 “(B) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

6 “(h) ADDITIONAL GRANTS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS
7 BUSINESS CENTERS.—

8 “(1) ACCESS TO CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-
10 tablish a grant program under which the Direc-
11 tor may make grants to veterans business cen-
12 ters to—

13 “(i) develop specialized programs to
14 assist small business concerns owned and
15 controlled by veterans in securing capital
16 and repairing damaged credit;

17 “(ii) provide informational seminars
18 on financial literacy, securing loans, and
19 Federal, State and local tax provisions and
20 incentives for small business concerns
21 owned and controlled by veterans;

22 “(iii) provide one-on-one counseling to
23 small business concerns owned and con-
24 trolled by veterans to improve the financial

1 presentations of the small business concern
2 to lenders;

3 “(iv) facilitate the access of small
4 business concerns owned and controlled by
5 veterans to traditional and non-traditional
6 financing sources; and

7 “(v) establish links to and partner-
8 ships with local workforce boards and busi-
9 ness mentoring organizations.

10 “(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not
11 make grants under this paragraph to a veterans
12 business center in a total amount of more than
13 \$75,000 during any 1-year period.

14 “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
15 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
16 to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each
17 of fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

18 “(2) PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PRO-
19 GRAM.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-
21 tablish a grant program under which the Direc-
22 tor may make grants to veterans business cen-
23 ters to—

24 “(i) assist small business concerns
25 owned and controlled by veterans in identi-

1 fying contracts that are suitable for the
2 small business concern;

3 “(ii) prepare small business concerns
4 owned and controlled by veterans to act as
5 subcontractors and prime contractors for
6 contracts made available under the Amer-
7 ican Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
8 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 115)
9 through training and business advice, par-
10 ticularly with respect to the construction
11 trades; and

12 “(iii) provide technical assistance to
13 small business concerns owned and con-
14 trolled by veterans relating to the Federal
15 procurement process, including assisting in
16 compliance with Federal regulations and
17 bonding requirements.

18 “(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not
19 make grants under this paragraph to a veterans
20 business center in a total amount of more than
21 \$75,000 during any 1-year period.

22 “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
23 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
24 to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each
25 of fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

1 “(3) SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED
2 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-
4 tablish a grant program under which the Direc-
5 tor may make grants to veterans business cen-
6 ters to—

7 “(i) develop outreach programs for
8 service-disabled veterans with respect to
9 the benefits of self-employment;

10 “(ii) provide tailored training to serv-
11 ice-disabled veterans with respect to busi-
12 ness plan development, marketing, budg-
13 eting, accounting, and merchandising;

14 “(iii) assist small business concerns
15 owned and controlled by service-disabled
16 veterans in locating and securing business
17 opportunities; and

18 “(iv) link service-disabled veterans to
19 services provided through one-stop centers
20 referred to in section 134(c) of the Work-
21 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
22 2864(c)), including information on labor
23 market trends, entrepreneurial and related
24 training and training providers, student fi-

1 nancial aid, and specialized services for
2 veterans.

3 “(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not
4 make grants under this paragraph to a veterans
5 business center in a total amount of more than
6 \$75,000 during any 1-year period.

7 “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
8 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
9 to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each
10 of fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

11 “(i) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT
12 SUMMIT.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the vet-
14 erans business center program established under
15 subsection (g) may hold an event, once every 2
16 years, to provide networking opportunities, outreach,
17 education, training, and support to veterans business
18 centers designated under subsection (g), small busi-
19 ness concerns owned and controlled by veterans, vet-
20 erans service organizations, workforce investment
21 boards of State and local governments, the Employ-
22 ment and Training Administration and the Vet-
23 erans’ Employment and Training Service of the De-
24 partment of Labor, and other entities as determined
25 appropriate by the Director.

1 “(2) PRESENTATION OF REPORT.—The findings
2 of the most recently submitted report under sub-
3 section (g)(12) shall be presented at an event held
4 under this subsection.

5 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
6 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
7 this subsection \$450,000 for each of fiscal years
8 2011 and 2012.

9 “(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
10 “(1) the term ‘Associate Administrator’ means
11 the Associate Administrator for Veterans Business
12 Development appointed under section 4(b)(1);

13 “(2) the term ‘Director’ means the Director of
14 the veterans business center program;

15 “(3) the term ‘growth funding grant’ means a
16 grant under subsection (g)(5)(B);

17 “(4) the term ‘initial grant’ means a grant
18 under subsection (g)(5)(A);

19 “(5) the term ‘task force’ means the inter-
20 agency task force established under subsection
21 (c)(1);

22 “(6) the term ‘veterans business center’ means
23 an entity designated as a veterans business center
24 under subsection (g)(4)(A); and

1 “(7) the term ‘veterans business center pro-
2 gram’ means the veterans business center program
3 established under subsection (g)(2).”.

4 (b) REPORT REGARDING DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM.—
5 The Administrator of the Small Business Administration,
6 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Assistant Sec-
7 retary for Veterans’ Employment and Training shall joint-
8 ly—

9 (1) assess the efficacy of establishing a Federal
10 direct loan program for small business concerns
11 owned and controlled by veterans (as defined in sec-
12 tion 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632));
13 and

14 (2) not later than 180 days after the date of
15 enactment of this Act, submit a report regarding the
16 assessment under paragraph (1) to—

17 (A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,
18 the Committee on Appropriations, the Com-
19 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneur-
20 ship, and the Committee on Health, Education,
21 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

22 (B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,
23 the Committee on Appropriations, and the
24 Committee on Small Business of the House of
25 Representatives.

1 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
 2 Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b)
 3 is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “by the Asso-
 5 ciate Administrator for Veterans Business Develop-
 6 ment” and all that follows and inserting “by the As-
 7 sociate Administrator.”; and

8 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “(in this
 9 section referred to as the ‘task force’)”.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY**
 11 **TASK FORCE.**

12 Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 13 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after
 15 the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every
 16 6 months thereafter, the Administrator shall submit
 17 to Congress a report on the appointments made to
 18 and activities of the task force.”.

1 **SEC. 5. PERIOD FOR COMPLETION OF TRAINING OF NEW**
2 **DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM**
3 **SPECIALISTS AND LOCAL VETERANS' EM-**
4 **PLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES BY NATIONAL**
5 **VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**
6 **SERVICES INSTITUTE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4102A(c)(8)(A) of title
8 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “three-
9 year period” and inserting “one-year period”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

11 (1) APPLICABILITY TO NEW EMPLOYEES.—The
12 amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with
13 respect to a State employee assigned to perform the
14 duties of a disabled veterans' outreach program spe-
15 cialist or a local veterans' employment representative
16 under chapter 41 of such title who is so assigned on
17 or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 (2) APPLICABILITY TO PREVIOUSLY HIRED EM-
19 PLOYEES.—In the case of such a State employee
20 who is so assigned on or after January 1, 2006, and
21 before the date of the enactment of this Act, the
22 Secretary of Labor shall require the State to require,
23 as a condition of a grant or contract under which
24 funds are made available to the State in order to
25 carry out section 4103A or 4104 of title 38, United
26 States Code, each such employee to complete satis-

1 factorily the training described in section
2 4102A(c)(8)(A) of such title by not later than the
3 date that is one year after the date of the enactment
4 of this Act.

5 (c) CROSS-TRAINING.—The Secretary of Labor shall
6 require State employees described by subsection (b) in the
7 performance of duties described in that subsection—

8 (1) to educate staff of one-stop centers about
9 the services such State employees provide and the
10 programs of assistance available to veterans; and

11 (2) in order to strengthen coordination and en-
12 hance services to veterans, to learn about the em-
13 ployment and training and related information and
14 services made available through the one-stop delivery
15 system.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) ONE-STOP CENTER.—The term “one-stop
18 center” means a one-stop center described in section
19 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
20 U.S.C. 2864(c)).

21 (2) ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—The term
22 “one-stop delivery system” means a one-stop delivery
23 system described in such section 134(c).

1 **SEC. 6. EMPLOYMENT TRAINING ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 42 of title 38, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing new section:

5 **“§ 4216. Employment training assistance for unem-**
6 **ployed veterans**

7 “(a) SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.—(1) The Secretary
8 of Labor shall, acting through the Assistant Secretary for
9 Veterans’ Employment and Training, pay to each covered
10 veteran a monthly training subsistence allowance under
11 this section for each month that a covered veteran is en-
12 rolled in a full time employment and training program
13 that—

14 “(A) is offered by an eligible provider of train-
15 ing services under section 122 of the Workforce In-
16 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2842); and

17 “(B) teaches a skill that is connected to a ca-
18 reer in an in-demand industry, as determined by the
19 Secretary of Labor.

20 “(2) The amount of the monthly training subsistence
21 allowance paid to a covered veteran under this subsection
22 shall be equal to the monthly amount of the basic allow-
23 ance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37 for
24 a member of the Armed Forces with dependents in pay
25 grade E–5 residing in the military housing area that en-

1 compasses all or the majority portion of the ZIP code area
2 in which the covered veteran resides.

3 “(3) A covered veteran is entitled to training subsist-
4 ence allowance under this subsection for not more than
5 six months during each 10-year period beginning on the
6 date in which the covered veteran first receives training
7 subsistence allowance under this section.

8 “(b) RELOCATION STIPEND.—(1) In addition to the
9 training subsistence allowance payable to a covered vet-
10 eran under subsection (a), the Secretary of Labor shall,
11 acting through the Assistant Secretary for Veterans’ Em-
12 ployment and Training, pay to each covered veteran a relo-
13 cation stipend for expenses incurred by the veteran for one
14 relocation—

15 “(A) related to the veteran’s participation in an
16 employment and training program described in sub-
17 section (a)(1); or

18 “(B) to an employment opportunity related to
19 the field or subject matter in which the veteran was
20 trained in an employment and training program de-
21 scribed in subsection (a)(1).

22 “(2) The amount of relocation stipend paid to a cov-
23 ered veteran under paragraph (1) may not exceed the less-
24 er of—

25 “(A) \$5,000; and

1 “(B) the actual amount of expenses incurred by
2 the veteran.

3 “(c) COVERED VETERAN.—For purposes of this sec-
4 tion, a covered veteran is a veteran who is—

5 “(1) unemployed for a period of not less than
6 four consecutive months at the time of applying for
7 training subsistence allowance under subsection (a);

8 “(2) able to complete successfully the employ-
9 ment and training program described in subsection
10 (a)(1), as determined by the Secretary of Labor; and

11 “(3) except as provided under this section, ineli-
12 gible for education or training assistance under this
13 title.

14 “(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of Labor
15 shall submit to Congress each year a report on the effec-
16 tiveness of the training subsistence allowance under sub-
17 section (a) and the relocation stipend under subsection (b)
18 during the preceding year. Each report shall include, for
19 the year concerned by such report, the following:

20 “(1) The number of veterans who received the
21 subsistence allowance.

22 “(2) The number of veterans who received the
23 relocation stipend.

24 “(3) The percentage of veterans who received
25 the subsistence allowance or relocation stipend and

1 completed an employment and training program de-
2 scribed in subsection (a)(1).

3 “(4) The percentage of veterans who received
4 the subsistence allowance or relocation stipend and
5 were employed and retained upon completion of an
6 employment and training program described in sub-
7 section (a)(1), as measured by the Secretary of
8 Labor.

9 “(5) The percentage of veterans who—

10 “(A) received the subsistence allowance or
11 relocation stipend; and

12 “(B) were employed in the fourth calendar
13 quarter of such year following graduation from
14 an employment and training program described
15 in subsection (a)(1).

16 “(6) The average earnings of veterans, as meas-
17 ured by the Secretary of Labor, who—

18 “(A) received the subsistence allowance or
19 relocation stipend; and

20 “(B) completed an employment and train-
21 ing program described in subsection (a)(1).

22 “(7) Such other matters relating to the effec-
23 tiveness of the subsistence allowance and the reloca-
24 tion stipend as the Secretary of Labor considers ap-
25 propriate.

1 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of
 3 Labor to carry out this section \$100,000,000 for each fis-
 4 cal year.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 6 at the beginning of such chapter 42 is amended by adding
 7 at the end the following:

“4216. Employment training assistance for unemployed veterans.”.

8 **SEC. 7. USE OF ENTITLEMENT UNDER POST-9/11 EDU-**
 9 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR APPRENTICE-**
 10 **SHIPS AND ON-JOB TRAINING.**

11 (a) ENTITLEMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33
 13 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by in-
 14 serting after section 3319 the following new section:

15 **“§ 3319A. Apprenticeships and on-job training**

16 “(a) MONTHLY BENEFIT.—Except as provided in
 17 subsections (b) and (c), the amount of the monthly benefit
 18 payment to an individual pursuing a full-time program of
 19 apprenticeship or other on-job training under this chapter
 20 is—

21 “(1) for each of the first six months of the indi-
 22 vidual’s pursuit of such program, 75 percent of the
 23 monthly benefit payment otherwise payable to such
 24 individual under this chapter;

1 “(2) for each of the second six months of the
2 individual’s pursuit of such program, 55 percent of
3 such monthly benefit payment; and

4 “(3) for each of the months following the first
5 12 months of the individual’s pursuit of such pro-
6 gram, 35 percent of such monthly benefit payment.

7 “(b) REDUCTION.—In any month in which an indi-
8 vidual pursuing a program of education consisting of a
9 program of apprenticeship or other on-job training fails
10 to complete 120 hours of training, the amount of the
11 monthly benefit payment payable under this chapter to the
12 individual shall be limited to the same proportion of the
13 applicable rate determined under subsection (a) as the
14 number of hours worked during such month, rounded to
15 the nearest eight hours, bears to 120 hours.

16 “(c) HOUSING ALLOWANCE.—An individual receiving
17 a monthly benefit pursuant to this section shall receive
18 a monthly housing stipend amount equal to the monthly
19 amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under
20 section 403 of title 37 for a member with dependents in
21 pay grade E-5 residing in the military housing area that
22 encompasses all or the majority portion of the ZIP code
23 area in which the individual resides.

24 “(d) CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT.—For each month
25 that an individual is paid a monthly benefit payment

1 under this chapter, the individual's entitlement under this
 2 chapter shall be charged at the rate of—

3 “(1) 75 percent of a month in the case of pay-
 4 ments made in accordance with subsection (a)(1);

5 “(2) 55 percent of a month in the case of pay-
 6 ments made in accordance with subsection (a)(2);
 7 and

8 “(3) 35 percent of a month in the case of pay-
 9 ments made in accordance with subsection (a)(3).

10 “(e) REDUCED CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT.—For
 11 any month in which an individual fails to complete 120
 12 hours of training, the entitlement otherwise chargeable
 13 under subsection (d) shall be reduced in the same propor-
 14 tion as the monthly benefit payment payable is reduced
 15 under subsection (b).

16 “(f) PROGRAM OF APPRENTICESHIP DEFINED.—In
 17 this section, the term ‘program of apprenticeship’ means
 18 a program of apprenticeship registered under the Act of
 19 August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Ap-
 20 prenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664; chapter 663; 29 U.S.C.
 21 50 et seq.).”.

22 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 23 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
 24 by inserting after the item relating to section 3319
 25 the following new item:

“3319A. Apprenticeships and on-job training.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3313 of
 2 such title is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or section
 4 3319A of this title” after “subsections (e) and (f)”;
 5 and

6 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
 7 lows:

8 “(b) APPROVED PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION.—A pro-
 9 gram of education is an approved program of education
 10 for purposes of this chapter if the program of education—

11 “(1) is—

12 “(A) offered by an institution of higher
 13 learning (as that term is defined in section
 14 3452(f) of this title); and

15 “(B) approved for purposes of chapter 30
 16 of this title (including approval by the State ap-
 17 proving agency concerned); or

18 “(2) in the case of an individual who is not
 19 serving on active duty, includes a program of ap-
 20 prenticeship or of other on-job training approved as
 21 provided in paragraph (1) or (2), as appropriate, of
 22 section 3687(a) of this title.”.

23 (c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 3002(3)(C)
 24 of such title is amended by striking “clause” and inserting
 25 “paragraph”.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section shall take effect as if included in the enact-
3 ment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance
4 Act of 2008 (title V of Public Law 110–252).

5 **SEC. 8. VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS GRANT PRO-**
6 **GRAM.**

7 (a) GRANT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
9 Affairs shall, in consultation with the Secretary of
10 Labor and the Secretary of the Interior, establish a
11 program to award grants to States to establish vet-
12 erans conservation corps.

13 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a
14 grant awarded to a State under this section in any
15 year may not exceed \$250,000.

16 (b) VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS.—For pur-
17 poses of this section, a veterans conservation corps is a
18 corps that—

19 (1) is established by a State—

20 (A) within the veterans agency of the
21 State; or

22 (B) in affiliation with the veterans agency
23 of the State; and

1 (2) provides veterans with volunteer and em-
2 ployment opportunities with respect to conservation
3 projects for one or more of the following:

4 (A) To restore natural habitat.

5 (B) To maintain Federal, State, or local—

6 (i) forest lands;

7 (ii) parks and reserves; and

8 (iii) other reservations, water, and
9 outdoor lands.

10 (C) To maintain and improve urban and
11 suburban storm water management facilities
12 and other water management facilities.

13 (D) To carry out hazardous materials and
14 spills response, energy efficiency and other envi-
15 ronmental maintenance, stewardship, and res-
16 toration projects.

17 (c) TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND CERTIFICATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a grant
19 under this section to establish a veterans conserva-
20 tion corps shall ensure that such corps incorporates
21 into the volunteer and employment opportunities
22 provided by such corps training, education, and cer-
23 tification in environmental restoration and manage-
24 ment fields.

1 (2) CONSULTATION.—Such State shall ensure
2 that, in incorporating training, education, and cer-
3 tification into volunteer and employment opportuni-
4 ties under paragraph (1), the veterans conservation
5 corps consults with the following:

6 (A) State and local workforce investment
7 boards.

8 (B) Local institutions of higher education,
9 including community colleges.

10 (C) Private schools.

11 (D) State or local agencies, including State
12 employment agencies and State forest services.

13 (E) Labor organizations.

14 (F) Business involved in the environmental
15 industry.

16 (G) Such other entities as the Secretary of
17 Veterans Affairs considers appropriate.

18 (d) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—A State receiving a
19 grant under this section to establish a veterans conserva-
20 tion corps shall ensure that such corps partners with one-
21 stop centers, State and local workforce investment boards,
22 and other State agencies to assist veterans enrolled in
23 such corps in obtaining employment in the fields of envi-
24 ronmental restoration and management, and other related
25 fields.

1 (e) SERVICES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a grant
3 under this section to establish a veterans conserva-
4 tion corps shall ensure that such corps—

5 (A) assesses of the veterans participating
6 in the Corps the skills to help such veterans
7 identify appropriate employment opportunities
8 in their local communities that utilize the skills
9 they developed while in the Armed Forces;

10 (B) assists with or provides referrals for
11 obtaining benefits available to veterans;

12 (C) facilitates internships or job shadowing
13 for veterans; and

14 (D) matches veterans with conservation
15 projects that are aligned with the goals of the
16 veterans.

17 (2) PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE AND LOCAL
18 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.—In carrying out
19 subparagraph (A) and (C) of paragraph (1), the
20 State shall partner with State and local workforce
21 investment boards.

22 (f) REPORTS.—Each State receiving a grant under
23 this section shall submit to the Secretary and the appro-
24 priate committees of Congress a report on the perform-

1 ance of the veterans conservation corps of such State, in-
 2 cluding the following:

3 (1) A description of how the grant amount was
 4 used.

5 (2) An assessment of the performance of such
 6 corps, including a description of the current veterans
 7 labor market in such State and the veterans labor
 8 market in such State in the previous year.

9 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
 11 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
 12 gress” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Appropriations and
 14 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-
 15 ate; and

16 (B) the Committee on Appropriations and
 17 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
 18 House of Representatives.

19 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
 20 term “institution of higher education” has the
 21 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
 22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

23 (3) ONE-STOP CENTER.—The term “one-stop
 24 center” means a one-stop center described in section

1 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
2 U.S.C. 2864(c)).

3 (4) STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVEST-
4 MENT BOARDS.—The term “State and local work-
5 force investment boards” means a State workforce
6 investment board and a local workforce investment
7 board as such terms are defined in section 101 of
8 the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
9 2801).

10 **SEC. 9. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN REFORMING HIGHER**
11 **EDUCATION TO AFFORD ACADEMIC CREDIT**
12 **FOR MILITARY EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
15 Affairs shall, in consultation with the Assistant Sec-
16 retary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and
17 Training, establish a center of excellence for the
18 purpose described in paragraph (2).

19 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose described in this
20 paragraph is the support of research, development,
21 planning, implementation, and evaluation of methods
22 for educational institutions to afford academic credit
23 for military experience and training to—

24 (A) veterans who were discharged or re-
25 leased from service in the Armed Forces not

1 more than 48 months before applying for ad-
 2 mission to a program of education at such insti-
 3 tutions; or

4 (B) members of the reserve components of
 5 the Armed Forces.

6 (b) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, acting
 8 through the center of excellence, award grants to or
 9 enter into contracts with eligible institutions for the
 10 purpose described in subsection (a)(2).

11 (2) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The
 12 Secretary may not award a grant or contract under
 13 this section in an amount that is less than
 14 \$2,000,000 or more than \$5,000,000.

15 (c) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—For purposes of this
 16 section, an eligible institution is any partnership that—

17 (1) meets such requirements as the Secretary
 18 may specify for purposes of this section; and

19 (2) consists of an institution of higher edu-
 20 cation and one or more of the following:

21 (A) A community college.

22 (B) A university teaching hospital.

23 (C) A military installation, including a fa-
 24 cility of the National Guard.

1 (D) A Department of Veterans Affairs
2 medical center.

3 (E) A military medical treatment facility.

4 (d) SELECTION OF GRANT AND CONTRACT RECIPI-
5 ENTS.—

6 (1) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution seek-
7 ing a grant or contract under this section shall sub-
8 mit to the Secretary an application therefor in such
9 form and in such manner as the Secretary considers
10 appropriate.

11 (2) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—In
12 selecting applicants for a grant or contract under
13 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to ap-
14 plicants who include as a partner an institution of
15 higher education or other educational institution
16 that—

17 (A) affords appropriate recognition to mili-
18 tary experience and training in screening can-
19 didates for admission to such institution;

20 (B) has an established practice of, or pro-
21 poses to establish a practice of, affording appro-
22 priate academic credit for military experience
23 and training;

24 (C) if the applicant proposes to establish a
25 practice as described in subparagraph (B), in-

1 cludes with the application submitted by the ap-
 2 plicant under paragraph (1) a review of such
 3 plan by a professional organization;

4 (D) has established a professional develop-
 5 ment and delivery system using evidence-based
 6 practices; or

7 (E) has demonstrated experience working
 8 with the Department of Defense or the Depart-
 9 ment of Veterans Affairs;

10 (3) STANDARDS, PROCEDURES, AND DISTRIBUTION
 11 CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall, by regulation,
 12 establish application and evaluation standards and
 13 procedures and such other forms, standards, defini-
 14 tions, and procedures as the Secretary determines to
 15 be appropriate for purposes of this section.

16 (e) USE OF GRANTS AND CONTRACT FUNDS.—Each
 17 eligible institution receiving a grant or contract under this
 18 section shall use the grant or contract for one or more
 19 of the following:

20 (1) To develop or implement a plan to modify
 21 programs of education and admissions programs at
 22 institutions of higher education to afford academic
 23 credit to veterans and members described in sub-
 24 section (a)(2).

1 (2) To develop standards for the identification
2 of military experience and training in individuals ap-
3 plying for enrollment at institutions of higher edu-
4 cation.

5 (3) To train professors, educators, and instruc-
6 tors at institutions of higher education on means of
7 best teaching students at such institutions with mili-
8 tary experience and training.

9 (4) To develop curriculum for institutions of
10 higher education that are appropriately tailored to
11 individuals with military experience and training.

12 (5) To develop admissions and recruitment
13 guidelines for institutions of higher education to at-
14 tract veterans and members described in subsection
15 (a)(2) and afford them appropriate recognition for
16 military experience and training in their admissions
17 processes.

18 (6) To establish a program, method, or stand-
19 ards to be utilized by institutions of higher edu-
20 cation for assessing the education and training of
21 veterans and members described in subsection (a)(2)
22 during the pursuit of a program of education and at
23 the completion of such program.

24 (f) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DE-
25 FINED.—In this section, the term “institution of higher

1 education” has the meaning given such term in section
 2 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 3 1001(a)).

4 **SEC. 10. PUBLICATION OF DATA ON EMPLOYMENT OF CER-**
 5 **TAIN VETERANS BY FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.**

6 Section 4212(d) of title 38, United States Code, is
 7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(3) The Secretary of Labor shall establish and
 9 maintain an Internet website that publicly discloses the
 10 information reported by contractors to the Secretary of
 11 Labor under paragraph (1).”.

12 **SEC. 11. MILITARY PATHWAYS DEMONSTRATION PRO-**
 13 **GRAMS.**

14 (a) **MILITARY PATHWAYS DEMONSTRATION PRO-**
 15 **GRAMS.**—Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of
 16 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end
 17 the following:

18 “(f) **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MILITARY PATH-**
 19 **WAYS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**—

20 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Labor,
 21 after consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Af-
 22 fairs and the Secretary of Defense, shall establish a
 23 demonstration program and carry out the program
 24 by making grants, on a competitive basis, to not
 25 more than 5 entities for demonstration projects. The

1 projects shall be designed to test the feasibility of
2 methods of enabling transitioning military members
3 to build on the technical skills learned in many mili-
4 tary jobs, to enter the information technology work-
5 force or continue their skills development in the in-
6 formation technology disciplines to meet the demand
7 for information technology workforce readiness in
8 computer specialist and related information tech-
9 nology jobs.

10 “(2) ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED.—In carrying
11 out the program, the Secretary may examine the
12 feasibility of methods such as the following:

13 “(A) Methods to improve the transitions,
14 skills development, and employment of
15 transitioning military members for and in infor-
16 mation technology occupations with wages suffi-
17 cient to support families.

18 “(B) Methods to align the information
19 technology skills acquired in military occupa-
20 tions with skills required in civilian information
21 technology occupations in new, emerging, or
22 viable industries, including aligning the skills—

23 “(i) using guidelines for assessments
24 and credentials that employers value in the
25 hiring process, and credentials that are in-

1 industry-recognized and approved by the
2 Secretary; and

3 “(ii) by means that may include the
4 use of a modified or enhanced Department
5 of Defense transition program or a De-
6 partment of Labor transition program,
7 such as the program carried out under
8 chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.

9 “(C) Methods to ensure that military mem-
10 bers receive education and training, including
11 training through apprenticeship programs reg-
12 istered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (com-
13 monly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship
14 Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50
15 et seq.) (referred to individually in this sub-
16 section as an ‘apprenticeship program’), and
17 necessary support services, that are flexible,
18 available (including available for deployed mili-
19 tary members), adequate for individuals seeking
20 to make the transition to civilian information
21 technology occupations, and consistent with
22 academic requirements of the institution in-
23 volved.

24 “(D) Methods to enable military members
25 to accelerate application for admission, accept-

1 ance, and graduation as students in computer
2 science, engineering, and related disciplines at
3 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher edu-
4 cation, based on military credentials and experi-
5 ence.

6 “(E) Methods to help military members
7 obtain information technology credentials that
8 are industry-recognized, are approved by the
9 Secretary, and satisfy both military require-
10 ments and civilian requirements, prior to re-
11 lease of the members from the military.

12 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
13 grant under this subsection, an entity shall submit
14 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
15 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
16 retary may require, including each of the following:

17 “(A) An assurance that the entity agrees
18 that, in carrying out the project, the entity will
19 work in conjunction with a local board and
20 enter into a partnership that includes, as prin-
21 cipal partners, employers, labor organizations,
22 postsecondary education institutions including
23 institutions of higher education, veterans serv-
24 ice organizations, and other community organi-
25 zations.

1 “(B) Information—

2 “(i) demonstrating the capability of
3 the entity in working with transitioning
4 military members;

5 “(ii) demonstrating that the entity
6 has a history of effective collaboration
7 with—

8 “(I) the information technology
9 industry or an industry with signifi-
10 cant information technology jobs;

11 “(II) State boards or local
12 boards, as appropriate; and

13 “(III) institutions of higher edu-
14 cation and other information tech-
15 nology educators or trainers; and

16 “(iii) demonstrating knowledge of
17 training and best practices of the informa-
18 tion technology industry.

19 “(C) An assurance that the entity will par-
20 ticipate in the Secretary’s evaluation plan for
21 the demonstration program, including partici-
22 pating in required reporting for the plan.

23 “(4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In order to select
24 entities to receive grants for projects under this sub-
25 section, the Secretary shall establish selection cri-

1 teria consistent with this subsection and shall ensure
2 that the criteria give priority to each of the following
3 types of entities:

4 “(A) Entities that demonstrate the ability
5 to leverage public or private funds to sustain
6 such a project after the grant period.

7 “(B) Entities that have relationships with
8 institutions of higher education or with quali-
9 fied community-based organizations that pro-
10 vide training.

11 “(C) Entities that have relationships with
12 employers, labor organizations, and other enti-
13 ties that will provide earn and learn opportuni-
14 ties to veterans.

15 “(D) Entities that have experience working
16 with veterans and facilitating transitions from
17 military to civilian work environments.

18 “(E) Entities that have experience design-
19 ing contextualized learning programs that inte-
20 grate basic adult education with skills training.

21 “(5) PROGRAM EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL
22 ASSISTANCE.—Using not more than 10 percent of
23 the amount made available to carry out this sub-
24 section, the Secretary may—

1 “(A) conduct an evaluation to determine
 2 promising methods of increasing the number of
 3 highly skilled transitioning military members
 4 who enter civilian information technology occu-
 5 pations and earn wages sufficient to support
 6 families; and

7 “(B) provide technical assistance to enti-
 8 ties receiving grants under this subsection, re-
 9 lating to the promising methods.

10 “(6) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare
 11 and submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
 12 gress and Federal agencies a final report on the
 13 findings and outcomes of the demonstration program
 14 carried out under this subsection. The Secretary
 15 shall broadly distribute the report through the vet-
 16 erans service organizations, State boards, and local
 17 boards.

18 “(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

19 “(A) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The
 20 term ‘information technology’ means any equip-
 21 ment or interconnected system or subsystem of
 22 equipment—

23 “(i) used in the automatic acquisition,
 24 storage, analysis, evaluation, manipulation,
 25 management, movement, control, display,

switching, interchange, transmission, or reception of data or information; and

“(ii) includes the following:

“(I) Computers.

“(II) Ancillary equipment for computers (including imaging peripherals, and input, output, and storage devices necessary for security and surveillance).

“(III) Peripheral equipment designed to be controlled by the central processing unit of a computer.

“(IV) Software.

“(V) Computer services (including support services).

“(VI) Other computer-related resources.

“(B) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(C) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.—The term ‘postsecondary education’ means—

1 “(i) a 4-year program of instruction,
 2 or not less than a 1-year program of in-
 3 struction that is acceptable for credit to-
 4 ward a baccalaureate degree or an asso-
 5 ciate degree, offered by an institution of
 6 higher education; or

7 “(ii) a certificate or apprenticeship
 8 program at the postsecondary level offered
 9 by an institution of higher education, a
 10 nonprofit educational institution, or a
 11 labor-management partnership.

12 “(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 13 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 14 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

15 “(g) NURSING, PUBLIC HEALTH AND ALLIED
 16 HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
 17 MILITARY PATHWAYS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor,
 19 after consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Af-
 20 fairs, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of Health
 21 and Human Services, shall establish a demonstration
 22 program and carry out the program by making
 23 grants, on a competitive basis, to not more than 5
 24 entities for demonstration projects. The projects
 25 shall be designed to test the feasibility of methods

1 of enabling transitioning military members to build
 2 on the technical skills learned in many military jobs,
 3 to enter the nursing, public health and allied health
 4 professional, and physician assistant workforces or
 5 continue their skills development in disciplines re-
 6 lated to those workforces to meet the demand for
 7 nurses, public health and allied health professionals,
 8 and physician assistants.

9 “(2) ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED.—In carrying
 10 out the program, the Secretary may examine the
 11 feasibility of methods such as the following:

12 “(A) Methods to improve the transitions,
 13 skills development, and employment of
 14 transitioning military members for and in nurs-
 15 ing, public health and allied health professional,
 16 and physician assistant occupations with wages
 17 sufficient to support families.

18 “(B) Methods to align nursing, public
 19 health and allied health professional, and physi-
 20 cian assistant skills acquired in military occupa-
 21 tions with skills required in related civilian
 22 health occupations, including aligning the
 23 skills—

24 “(i) using guidelines for assessments
 25 and credentials that employers value in the

1 hiring process, and credentials that are in-
2 dustry-recognized and approved by the
3 Secretary; and

4 “(ii) by means that may include the
5 use of a modified or enhanced Department
6 of Defense transition program or a De-
7 partment of Labor transition program,
8 such as the program carried out under
9 chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.

10 “(C) Methods to ensure that military mem-
11 bers receive education and training, including
12 training through apprenticeship programs, and
13 necessary support services, that are flexible,
14 available (including available for deployed mili-
15 tary members), adequate for individuals seeking
16 to make the transition to civilian nursing, pub-
17 lic health and allied health, and physician as-
18 sistant occupations, and consistent with aca-
19 demic requirements of the institution involved.

20 “(D) Methods to align education and train-
21 ing programs, including apprenticeship pro-
22 grams, for veterans in nursing, public health
23 and allied health professional, and physician as-
24 sistant occupations with education and training

1 programs for those occupations that are pro-
2 vided for the public.

3 “(E) Methods to enable military members
4 to accelerate application for admission, accept-
5 ance, and graduation as students in nursing,
6 public health and allied health, and physician
7 assistant disciplines at 2-year and 4-year insti-
8 tutions of higher education, based on military
9 credentials and experience.

10 “(F) Methods to help military members ob-
11 tain credentials related to those health care oc-
12 cupations that are industry-recognized, are ap-
13 proved by the Secretary, and satisfy both mili-
14 tary requirements and civilian requirements,
15 prior to release of the members from the mili-
16 tary.

17 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
18 grant under this subsection, an entity shall submit
19 an application to the Secretary of such time, in such
20 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
21 retary may require including each of the following:

22 “(A) An assurance that the entity agrees
23 that, in carrying out the project, the entity will
24 work in conjunction with a local board and
25 enter into a partnership that includes, as prin-

1 ciproal partners, employers, labor organizations,
2 postsecondary education institutions including
3 institutions of higher education, veterans serv-
4 ice organizations, and other community organi-
5 zations.

6 “(B) Information—

7 “(i) in demonstrating the capability of
8 the entity in working with transitioning
9 military members;

10 “(ii) demonstrating that the entity
11 has a history of effective collaboration
12 with—

13 “(I) health care employers;

14 “(II) State boards or local
15 boards, as appropriate; and

16 “(III) institutions of higher edu-
17 cation and other nursing, public
18 health and allied health professional,
19 and physician assistant educators or
20 trainers; and

21 “(iii) demonstrating knowledge of
22 training and best practices of the health
23 care industry.

24 “(C) An assurance that the entity will par-
25 ticipate in the Secretary’s evaluation plan for

1 the demonstration program, including partici-
2 pating in required reporting for the plan.

3 “(4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In order to select
4 entities to receive grants for projects under this sub-
5 section, the Secretary shall establish selection cri-
6 teria consistent with this subsection and shall ensure
7 that the criteria give priority to entities that dem-
8 onstrate the ability to leverage of public or private
9 funds to sustain such a project after the grant pe-
10 riod.

11 “(5) PROGRAM EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL
12 ASSISTANCE.—Using not more than 10 percent of
13 the amount made available to carry out this sub-
14 section, the Secretary may—

15 “(A) conduct an evaluation to determine
16 promising methods of increasing the number of
17 highly skilled transitioning military members
18 who enter civilian nursing, public health and al-
19 lied health, or physician assistant occupations
20 and earn wages sufficient to support families;
21 and

22 “(B) provide technical assistance to enti-
23 ties receiving grants under this subsection, re-
24 lating to the promising methods.

1 “(6) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare
 2 and submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
 3 gress and Federal agencies a final report on the
 4 findings and outcomes of the demonstration program
 5 carried out under this subsection. The Secretary
 6 shall broadly distribute the report through the vet-
 7 erans service organizations, State boards, and local
 8 boards.

9 “(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 “(A) ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.—
 11 The term ‘allied health professional’ means a
 12 health professional (other than a registered
 13 nurse or physician assistant) who—

14 “(i) has received a certificate, an asso-
 15 ciate degree, a baccalaureate degree, a
 16 master’s degree, a doctoral degree, or
 17 postbaccalaureate training, in a science re-
 18 lating to health care;

19 “(ii) shares in the responsibility for
 20 the delivery of health care services or re-
 21 lated services, including—

22 “(I) services relating to the iden-
 23 tification, evaluation, and prevention
 24 of disease and disorders;

- 1 “(II) dietary and nutrition serv-
2 ices;
3 “(III) health promotion services;
4 “(IV) rehabilitation services; or
5 “(V) health systems management
6 services; and
7 “(iii) has not received—
8 “(I) a degree of doctor of medi-
9 cine;
10 “(II) a degree of doctor of oste-
11 opathy;
12 “(III) a degree of doctor of den-
13 tistry or an equivalent degree;
14 “(IV) a degree of doctor of vet-
15 erinary medicine or an equivalent de-
16 gree;
17 “(V) a degree of doctor of optom-
18 etry or an equivalent degree;
19 “(VI) a degree of doctor of
20 podiatric medicine or an equivalent
21 degree;
22 “(VII) a degree of bachelor of
23 science in pharmacy or an equivalent
24 degree;

1 “(VIII) a degree of doctor of
2 pharmacy or an equivalent degree;

3 “(IX) a graduate degree in public
4 health or an equivalent degree;

5 “(X) a degree of doctor of chiro-
6 practic or an equivalent degree;

7 “(XI) a graduate degree in
8 health administration or an equivalent
9 degree;

10 “(XII) a doctoral degree in clin-
11 ical psychology or an equivalent de-
12 gree;

13 “(XIII) a degree in social work
14 or an equivalent degree; or

15 “(XIV) a degree in counseling or
16 an equivalent degree.

17 “(B) OTHER TERMS.—The terms ‘appren-
18 ticeship program’, ‘institution of higher edu-
19 cation’, and ‘postsecondary education’ have the
20 meanings given the terms in subsection (f).

21 “(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
22 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
23 this subsection \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year.”.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 174(b)(1)
25 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.

1 2919(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “(other than sub-
 2 section (f) or (g) of section 171)” after “through 172”.

3 **SEC. 12. VETERANS ENERGY-RELATED EMPLOYMENT PRO-**
 4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 168 of the Workforce In-
 6 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2913) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
 8 section (c);

9 (2) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 11 “and” at the end;

12 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
 13 period and inserting “; and”; and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(D) activities described in subsection
 16 (b).”; and

17 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
 18 lowing:

19 “(b) VETERANS ENERGY-RELATED EMPLOYMENT
 20 PROGRAM.—

21 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To encourage the em-
 23 ployment of eligible veterans in the energy in-
 24 dustry, the Secretary shall carry out a Veterans
 25 Energy-Related Employment Program as a

1 pilot program and as a program described in
2 subsection (a).

3 “(B) GRANTS.—Under the pilot program,
4 the Secretary shall award grants on a competi-
5 tive basis to 3 States for the establishment and
6 administration of State Energy-Related Em-
7 ployment Programs. In administering such a
8 program, the State shall make grants to energy
9 employers and labor-management organizations
10 that collectively provide covered training, on-
11 the-job training, apprenticeship programs reg-
12 istered as described in section 171(f)(2)(C) (re-
13 ferred to individually in this subsection as an
14 ‘apprenticeship program’), and certification
15 classes to eligible veterans. Such a program
16 may be referred to in this subsection as a ‘State
17 program’.

18 “(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—To be eligible
19 to receive a grant under the pilot program, a State
20 shall submit to the Secretary an application that in-
21 cludes each of the following:

22 “(A) A proposal for the expenditure of
23 grant funds to establish, and administer
24 through a public-private partnership, a State
25 Energy-Related Employment Program designed

1 to provide covered training, on-the-job training,
 2 apprenticeship programs, and certification
 3 classes to a significant number of eligible vet-
 4 erans and ensure lasting and sustainable em-
 5 ployment in well-paying jobs in the energy in-
 6 dustry.

7 “(B) Evidence that the State has—

8 “(i) a population of eligible veterans,
 9 of an appropriate size for the State pro-
 10 gram;

11 “(ii) a robust and diverse energy in-
 12 dustry; and

13 “(iii) the ability to carry out the State
 14 program described in the proposal under
 15 subparagraph (A).

16 “(C) Such other information and assur-
 17 ances as the Secretary may require.

18 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that is the re-
 19 cipient of a grant under this subsection shall use the
 20 grant funds for each of the following purposes:

21 “(A) Making grants to energy employers
 22 and labor-management organizations to reim-
 23 burse such employers and organizations for the
 24 cost of providing covered training, on-the-job

1 training, apprenticeship programs, and certifi-
2 cation classes to eligible veterans.

3 “(B) Conducting outreach to inform en-
4 ergy employers, labor-management organiza-
5 tions, and veterans, including veterans in rural
6 areas, of their eligibility or potential eligibility
7 for participation in the State program.

8 “(4) CONDITIONS.—Under the pilot program,
9 each State that receives a grant under this sub-
10 section shall be subject to each of the following con-
11 ditions:

12 “(A) REPAYMENT.—The State shall repay
13 to the Secretary, on such date as shall be deter-
14 mined by the Secretary, any amount received
15 under the pilot program that is not used for the
16 purposes described in paragraph (3).

17 “(B) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—The
18 State shall submit to the Secretary, at such
19 times and containing such information as the
20 Secretary shall require, reports on the use of
21 the grant funds.

22 “(5) EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS.—In order to
23 receive a grant made by a State under the pilot pro-
24 gram, an energy employer seeking the grant shall, or
25 a labor-management organization seeking such a

1 grant shall (in coordination with the energy em-
2 ployer involved)—

3 “(A) submit to the administrator of the
4 State program an application that includes—

5 “(i) the rate of pay for each eligible
6 veteran proposed to be served using grant
7 funds;

8 “(ii) the average rate of pay for an in-
9 dividual employed by the energy employer
10 in a similar position who is not an eligible
11 veteran; and

12 “(iii) such other information and as-
13 surances as the administrator may require;
14 and

15 “(B) agree to submit to the administrator,
16 for each quarter, a report containing such infor-
17 mation as the Secretary may specify.

18 “(6) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made
19 available to an energy employer or labor-manage-
20 ment organization through a grant under the pilot
21 program may be used to provide services of any kind
22 to a person who is not an eligible veteran.

23 “(7) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary
24 shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot pro-
25 gram. The Secretary shall submit the report to-

1 together with the report required to be submitted an-
 2 nually under section 4107(c) of title 38, United
 3 States Code, and with respect to the same year as
 4 is covered by such report. The report on the pilot
 5 program shall include a detailed description of ac-
 6 tivities carried out under this subsection and an
 7 evaluation of the program.

8 “(8) ADMINISTRATIVE AND REPORTING
 9 COSTS.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to
 10 the authorization of appropriations under paragraph
 11 (10), 2 percent shall be made available to the Sec-
 12 retary for administrative costs associated with imple-
 13 menting and evaluating the pilot program under this
 14 subsection and for preparing and submitting the re-
 15 port required under paragraph (7). The Secretary
 16 shall determine the appropriate maximum amount of
 17 each grant awarded under this subsection that may
 18 be used by the recipient for administrative and re-
 19 porting costs.

20 “(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

21 “(A) COVERED TRAINING, ON-THE-JOB
 22 TRAINING, APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS, AND
 23 CERTIFICATION CLASSES.—The term ‘covered
 24 training, on-the-job training, apprenticeship
 25 programs, and certification classes’ means

1 training, on-the-job training, apprenticeship
2 programs, and certification classes that are—

3 “(i) designed to provide a veteran
4 with skills that are particular to an energy
5 industry and not directly transferable to
6 employment in another industry; and

7 “(ii) approved as provided in para-
8 graph (1) or (2), as appropriate, of sub-
9 section (a) of section 3687 of title 38,
10 United States Code.

11 “(B) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The term ‘eli-
12 gible veteran’ means a veteran described in sub-
13 section (a) who is employed by an energy em-
14 ployer and enrolled or participating in a covered
15 training, on-the-job training, apprenticeship
16 program, or certification class.

17 “(C) ENERGY EMPLOYER.—The term ‘en-
18 ergy employer’ means an entity that employs in-
19 dividuals in a trade or business in an energy in-
20 dustry.

21 “(D) ENERGY INDUSTRY.—The term ‘en-
22 ergy industry’ means any of the following in-
23 dustries:

24 “(i) The energy-efficient building, con-
25 struction, or retrofits industry.

1 “(ii) The renewable electric power in-
 2 dustry, including the wind and solar en-
 3 ergy industries.

4 “(iii) The biofuels industry.

5 “(iv) The energy efficiency assessment
 6 industry that serves the residential, com-
 7 mercial, or industrial sector.

8 “(v) The oil and natural gas industry.

9 “(vi) The nuclear industry.

10 “(10) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized
 11 to be appropriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for
 12 each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015, for the pur-
 13 pose of carrying out the pilot program described in
 14 this subsection.”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 174(a)(1)
 16 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
 17 2919(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “(other than section
 18 168(b))” after “168”.

19 **SEC. 13. GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**
 20 **PERSONNEL TRAINING FOR VETERANS.**

21 Section 330J(c)(8) of the Public Health Service Act
 22 (42 U.S.C. 254c–15(c)(8)) is amended by inserting before
 23 the period the following: “, including, as provided by the
 24 Secretary, may use funds to provide to military veterans
 25 required coursework and training that take into account,

1 and are not duplicative of, previous medical coursework
 2 and training received when such veterans were active
 3 members of the Armed Forces, to enable such veterans
 4 to satisfy emergency medical services personnel certifi-
 5 cation requirements, as determined by the appropriate
 6 State regulatory entity”.

7 **SEC. 14. VETERANS TO WORK PILOT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) VETERANS TO WORK PROGRAM.—Subchapter III
 9 of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, is amended
 10 by inserting after section 2856 the following new section:

11 **“§ 2857. Veterans to Work pilot program**

12 “(a) PILOT PROGRAM; PURPOSES.—The Secretary of
 13 Defense shall carry out a pilot program (to be known as
 14 the ‘Veterans to Work pilot program’) to determine—

15 “(1) the maximum feasible extent to which ap-
 16 prentices may be employed to work on military con-
 17 struction projects designated under subsection (b);

18 “(2) the maximum feasible extent to which the
 19 apprentices so employed are veterans; and

20 “(3) the feasibility of expanding the employ-
 21 ment of apprentices to military construction projects
 22 in addition to those projects designated under sub-
 23 section (b).

24 “(b) DESIGNATION OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
 25 PROJECTS FOR PILOT PROGRAM.—(1) For each of fiscal

1 years 2011 through 2015, the Secretary of Defense shall,
2 in consultation with the Secretaries of the military depart-
3 ments, designate for inclusion in the pilot program not less
4 than 20 military construction projects (including unspec-
5 ified minor military construction projects under section
6 2805(a) of this title) that will be conducted in that fiscal
7 year.

8 “(2) In designating military construction projects
9 under this subsection, the Secretary of Defense shall—

10 “(A) to the greatest extent possible, designate
11 military construction projects that are located where
12 there are veterans enrolled in qualified apprentice-
13 ship programs or veterans who could be enrolled in
14 qualified apprenticeship programs in a cost-effective,
15 timely, and feasible manner;

16 “(B) ensure geographic diversity among the
17 military construction projects designated; and

18 “(C) select projects to be carried out in the con-
19 tinental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puer-
20 to Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the
21 United States Virgin Islands.

22 “(3) Unspecified minor military construction projects
23 may not exceed 40 percent of the military construction
24 projects designated under this subsection for a fiscal year.

1 “(c) CONTRACT PROVISIONS.—Any agreement that
 2 the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military
 3 department enters into for a military construction project
 4 that is designated for inclusion in the pilot program shall
 5 ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, apprentices
 6 shall be employed on the project and that, to the maximum
 7 extent feasible, such apprentices shall be veterans.

8 “(d) QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP AND OTHER
 9 TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

10 “(1) PARTICIPATION BY EACH CONTRACTOR RE-
 11 QUIRED.—Each contractor and subcontractor that
 12 seeks to provide construction services on military
 13 construction projects designated by the Secretary of
 14 Defense pursuant to subsection (b) shall submit ade-
 15 quate assurances with its bid or proposal that it par-
 16 ticipates in a qualified apprenticeship or other train-
 17 ing program for each craft or trade classification of
 18 worker that it intends to employ to perform work on
 19 the project.

20 “(2) QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP OR OTHER
 21 TRAINING PROGRAM DEFINED.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the
 23 term ‘qualified apprenticeship or other training
 24 program’ means an apprenticeship or other
 25 training program that qualifies as an employee

1 welfare benefit plan, as defined in section 3(1)
2 of the Employee Retirement Income Security
3 Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(1)).

4 “(B) CERTIFICATION OF OTHER PRO-
5 GRAMS IN CERTAIN LOCALITIES.—In the event
6 that the Secretary of Labor certifies that a
7 qualified apprenticeship or other training pro-
8 gram (as defined in subparagraph (A)) for a
9 craft or trade classification of workers that a
10 prospective contractor or subcontractor intends
11 to employ, is not operated in the locality where
12 the project will be performed, an apprenticeship
13 or other training program that is not an em-
14 ployee welfare benefit plan (as defined in such
15 section) may be certified by the Secretary as a
16 qualified apprenticeship or other training pro-
17 gram provided it is registered with the Office of
18 Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor, or
19 a State apprenticeship agency recognized by the
20 Office of Apprenticeship for Federal purposes

21 “(e) REPORT.—(1) Not later than 150 days after the
22 end of each fiscal year during which the pilot program
23 is active, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Con-
24 gress a report that includes the following:

1 “(A) The progress of military construction
2 projects designated pursuant to subsection (b) and
3 the role of apprentices in achieving that progress.

4 “(B) Any challenges, difficulties, or problems
5 encountered in recruiting apprentices or in recruit-
6 ing veterans to become apprentices.

7 “(C) Cost differentials in the designated mili-
8 tary construction projects when compared with simi-
9 lar projects completed contemporaneously, but not
10 designated for the pilot program.

11 “(D) Evaluation of benefits derived from em-
12 ploying apprentices, including the following:

13 “(i) Workforce sustainability.

14 “(ii) Workforce skills enhancement.

15 “(iii) Increased short and long term cost-
16 effectiveness.

17 “(iv) Improved veteran employment in sus-
18 tainable wage fields.

19 “(E) Any additional benefits derived from em-
20 ploying apprentices and veteran apprentices.

21 “(F) Recommendations on how to more effec-
22 tively employ apprentices in subsequent fiscal years.

23 “(G) Any other information the Secretary of
24 Defense considers appropriate.

1 “(2) Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of
2 Defense shall submit to Congress a report that—

3 “(A) analyzes the pilot program in terms of its
4 effect on the sustainability of a workforce to meet
5 the military construction needs of the Armed Forces;

6 “(B) studies overall improvements in veteran
7 employment in sustainable wage fields or profes-
8 sions; and

9 “(C) makes recommendations on the continu-
10 ation, modification, or expansion of the pilot pro-
11 gram on the basis of such factors as the Secretary
12 of Defense determines appropriate, including the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(i) Workforce sustainability.

15 “(ii) Cost-effectiveness.

16 “(iii) Community development.

17 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) The term ‘apprentice’ means an individual
19 who is employed pursuant to and individually reg-
20 istered in a ‘qualified apprenticeship or other train-
21 ing program,’ as defined in subsection (d)(2)(A) or
22 other apprenticeship or training programs recog-
23 nized in accordance with subsection (d)(2)(B).

24 “(2) The term ‘State’ means any of the several
25 States, the District of Columbia, or territories of

1 Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands,
 2 and the United States Virgin Islands.

3 “(3) The term ‘veteran’ has the meaning given
 4 such term under section 101(2) of title 38.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 6 at the beginning of subchapter III of chapter 169 of such
 7 title is amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 8 tion 2856 the following new item:

“2857. Veterans to Work pilot program.”.

9 **SEC. 15. REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVE-**
 10 **MENTS TO THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**
 11 **PROGRAM TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF**
 12 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VET-**
 13 **ERANS.**

14 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
 15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
 16 of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, acting through the
 17 Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment
 18 and Training, shall jointly submit to the appropriate com-
 19 mittees of Congress a report setting forth recommenda-
 20 tions for improvements and enhancements of the Transi-
 21 tion Assistance Program (TAP) in order to better meet
 22 the needs of members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

23 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
 24 (a) shall include the following:

1 (1) A description and assessment of the extent
2 to which the current Transition Assistance Program
3 meets the needs of members of the Armed Forces
4 and veterans.

5 (2) Recommendations for improvements and en-
6 hancements of the Transition Assistance Program in
7 order to ensure—

8 (A) the comprehensiveness of the programs
9 and activities under the program; and

10 (B) the consistency of the programs and
11 activities under the program across the Armed
12 Forces and among the military installations at
13 which the program is carried out.

14 (3) Recommendations for improvements and en-
15 hancements of the Transition Assistance Program to
16 ensure that the program meets the needs of veterans
17 residing in localities in the vicinity of military instal-
18 lations at which the program is carried out.

19 (4) A description and assessment of the pro-
20 grams and activities offered to veterans who have
21 completed participation in the Transition Assistance
22 Program in order to further assist such veterans in
23 their continuing transition from military life to civil-
24 ian life, and recommendations for programs and ac-
25 tivities to improve and enhance such assistance.

1 (5) An estimate of the cost of implementing the
 2 recommendations set forth pursuant to paragraphs
 3 (2), (3), and (4) during the five fiscal years begin-
 4 ning after the date of the submittal of the report.

5 (6) Such other matters as the Secretary of De-
 6 fense and the Secretary of Labor jointly consider ap-
 7 propriate.

8 (c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
 9 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
 10 tees of Congress” means—

11 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
 12 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the Committee
 13 on Appropriations of the Senate; and

14 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
 15 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the Committee
 16 on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

17 **SEC. 16. STUDY ON PROGRAM OF TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**
 18 **MODELED ON NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOY-**
 19 **MENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM OF THE**
 20 **WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD.**

21 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
 22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
 23 of Defense shall complete a study of the National Guard
 24 Employment Enhancement Program of the Washington
 25 National Guard to assess the feasibility and advisability

1 of carrying out a program of assistance modeled after such
2 program for all members of reserve components of the
3 Armed Forces who transition from activity military service
4 to civilian life.

5 (b) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study required
6 by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appro-
7 priate committees of Congress a report that includes the
8 following:

9 (1) The findings of the Secretary as a result of
10 the study.

11 (2) The recommendation of the Secretary as to
12 the feasibility and advisability of carrying out a pro-
13 gram of assistance as described in subsection (a).

14 (3) If the Secretary determines that carrying
15 out a program of assistance as described in sub-
16 section (a) is feasible and advisable, an estimate of
17 the cost to implement the program of assistance.

18 (c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
19 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
20 tees of Congress” means—

21 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
22 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the Committee
23 on Appropriations of the Senate; and

1 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
2 Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee
3 on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

○